**Co-operation with Romania in oil sector**

† 917. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Romania and India would co-operate in development and research in oil sector, engineering sector and construction sector, and

(b) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An official delegation led by the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Panchayati Raj visited Romania on 1—4 July 2005 and held discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Economy & Commerce, senior officials of the Romanian oil industry, business persons of the regional Chambers of Commerce & Industry and senior officials in the R&D, training and academic sectors of the oil industry. The two sides identified a number of specific areas of bilateral cooperation, including: exploration, refining, projects in third countries, transnational pipelines, academic exchanges and cooperation in the R&D sector. During the visit, the following Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were signed:

(i) Inter-governmental MoU between India and Romania on co-operation in various oil and natural gas activities;

(ii) MoU on Co-operation between the Indian University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun, and the Petroleum & Gas University, Ploiesti, Romania;

(iii) MoU on co-operation between the K.D. Malviya Institute of Petroleum Exploration, ONGC, and Petroleum & Gas University, Ploiesti, Romania; and

(iv) MoU on Co-operation for enhancing business partnerships between CII, India, and the Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Prohova, Romania.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.